

Medicaid Matters

Deadline set for hurricane-related uncompensated care claims

Nearly \$6 million in unclaimed funds for hurricane evacuee health care needs in Alabama will soon revert to the federal government unless more health care providers meet the June 30 deadline for submitting claims to the Alabama Medicaid Agency's uncompensated care pool plan.

As of May 19, only \$79,000 in claims had been submitted to the state agency, according to Medicaid Commissioner Carol A. Herrmann-Steckel. The agency received authorization in March to pay up to \$5 million for medically-necessary services, supplies and medicine furnished to Hurricane Katrina evacuees. The state was authorized in April to pay up to an additional \$1 million in claims for those displaced by Hurricane Rita. Funds not obligated by June 30 must be returned to the federal government.



"Last fall, Alabama's health care providers compassionately responded to the immediate needs of hurricane evacuees," said Alabama Gov. Bob Riley. "Now that these federal funds have been made available to the state, we want to make sure that those who stepped forward to help know about these funds and how to file for reimbursement."

In order to qualify for coverage, evacuees had to previously reside in one of the federally-designated counties, have no other health care coverage from any source except for Medicaid in Louisiana, Mississippi or Texas, and receive services from an Alabama Medicaid-enrolled provider between specified dates for each storm. Additionally, the service provided must be one that is currently covered by the Alabama Medicaid Agency.

A list of designated counties, forms and other information to assist providers are available on Medicaid's website. [Click here for more information on this program.](#)

Plan First family planning program extended through September 2008

Plan First, Alabama Medicaid's nationally-recognized family planning program has been approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) through September 30, 2008. The program began in October 2000 to provide family planning services to uninsured women ages 19-44 who would not qualify for Medicaid unless pregnant. To qualify for the program, an applicant's family income must be at or below 133 percent of the Federal Poverty Level.

Approximately 99,000 Alabama women are currently enrolled in the program which is jointly operated by Medicaid and the Alabama Department of Public Health. [Click here for more information](#)



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Searchable fee schedules on Agency website

Physicians and other health care providers can now search for information on specific reimbursement codes using a new search feature on the Agency's website. The new look-up screen enables providers to look up a single code or range of codes on five different fee schedules, including physicians, physician drug (injectibles), lab and x-ray, DME/supplies and outpatient schedules.

PDF and Excel versions of the fee schedules will continue to be offered on the website as well. To view the new fee schedule search feature, [click here](#).



More than 1,100 register for 2006 "Town Hall" Meetings

Patient 1st, a new MMIS system, pharmacy issues and Medicare Part D are among the many topics being discussed in Medicaid's 2006 Town Hall meetings now underway throughout the state.

More than 1,100 health professionals and provider support personnel have registered to participate in one of the 22 free sessions that will run through June 1. Continuing education credit/hours are also available for physicians, nurses, social workers, pharmacy personnel and billing staff at no charge.



At this time, space is available at the Opelika, Dothan and Montgomery meetings. For more information or to register, visit the [Town Hall Meeting page](#) on the Agency's website or call the Alabama Medicaid Agency's Outreach and Education Unit at (334) 353-5203.

Click below for helpful resources and links on Medicaid's website:

[Annual Reports](#)
[Applying for Medicaid](#)
[Billing Information](#)
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[Patient 1st Program](#)
[News](#)
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